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NOTES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

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Contributions may be typed (preferably) or written clearly and should be sent to: M. P. Clifton, Box 44486, Nairobi, Kenya. Receipt of contributions will be acknowledged.

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SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE SPOTTED HYAENA CROCUTA CROCUTA IN FOREST AREAS

PART 1

During the past decade the social behaviour and hunting pattern of the Spotted Hyaena, Crocuta crocuta, has been studied in great detail by two scientists, Hans Kruuk and Jane Goodall, and their books 'Hyaena' and 'Innocent Killers' make fascinating reading. These studies were made in both the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater, Tanzania, and though they shed a great deal of light upon the habits of a hitherto unknown predator, neither place can be called a forest. The following observations have been made on Hyaena in the forests of The Aberdares, Kenya.

The Aberdare Mountains, like so many other areas in Kenya, have changed drastically since they were opened officially as a National Park on 16th March 1959. Before that time the whole area was under the Forest Department, and it certainly did not contain any great number of animals. The Forest Department still controls much of the lower stretches, and, when I was posted to Kiandongoro Forest Station in 1960, I was able to study a report written at the time of the handover. It ended quite simply with the statement that The Aberdare Royal National Park, as it was then called, must be looked upon primarily as a botanical and not a faunal area.

At that time, and indeed for many thousands of years before, two predators were helping to hold the balance of Nature. Today both are virtually absent. They were the Wanderobo (replaced in later years by the Wakikuyu), and the Wild Dog, Lycaon pictus. Wild Dogs never of course lived in the forests as permanent hunters. They periodically swept in from the surrounding plains when game was scarce, hunted for a short time, and then moved out. For many years the Forest Department, with the help of the Administration, had been persuading the Wanderobo to abandon their forest way of life and take over a settlement area set aside for them. The Wakikuyu were agriculturists by nature and only hunters when convenient. The Kenya Emergency, from 1952 until 1957, finally ended the role played by man as a forest dweller as against a poacher. The demise of the Wild Dog as an effective predator came about as a result of settlement denuding Cole's Plains of their normal prey, and the digging of a 35 km ditch along three sides of The Salient preventing movement into the forest.

When the National Parks mounted effective anti-poaching patrols during the early sixties the population of both Lions, Panthera leo and of Leopards, Panthera pardus, certainly

increased, but the Lion kept mostly to the moorland areas, and the Leopard confined their killing very much to Bushbuck, Tragelaphus scriptus, and other prey animals small enough to drag into a tree. Incidentally, though a number of Lion always lived on our big mountains the Warden released a number of unwanted stock-killers which certainly boosted the population. The African Buffalo, Syncerus caffer, increased with effective protection from man and their increase took place in the absence of suitable predators. As is well known Nature abhors a vacuum: not only did Hyaena increase to fill this vacuum but they changed their ways and became a true predator of the forest. A few, of course, had always lived around the forest villages, and I shot one or two at Tusha and Kiandongoro. Now they became packs.

I have studied the Hyaena at the Game Lodge where I work for more than seven years, and, during that time about six actual kills of Buffalo have taken place. Many more incidents have occured when the beast has been attacked and then either left alone or the kill has taken place elsewhere. One serious attack on a Bushbuck has been witnessed, two on Black Rhino, Diceros bicornis calves, and one Elephant, Loxodonta africana, calf came in with its tail newly bitten off. Giant Forest Hog, Hylochoerus meinertzhageni, sounders are often surrounded and attempts made to snatch the piglets but so far we have not seen them succeed and probably Leopard are much more successful in that field. A Bongo, Boocercus euryceros, was once surrounded but appeared to escape, and a Hyaena came in with a White-tailed Mongoose, Ichneumia albicauda, dangling from its jaws. Incidentally, this species of Mongoose, when confronted suddenly by a Hyaena, once erected all its long hair, making itself look twice as big, and the Hyaena quickly departed.

From this it will be seen that Buffalo are by far the most common prey species. Calves are taken regularly but, should the mothers prove to be too effective in protecting them, or should the pack be extremely hungry, then adults are killed with no hesitation. Various hunting methods are employed and some of them are very similar to those of Wolves killing Moose. Normally no more than six or eight animals do the actual killing, with a couple of big, aggressive females in the lead, and other members of the pack rush to the scene when they hear the commotion . . lowing and snorting of a Buffalo, smashing of undergrowth, pounding of hooves, and maybe one or two howls of a Hyaena. It must be remembered that the hunt itself is comparatively silent, and the noises build up as the kill draws to a close, ending in a cacaphony of sound which defies description. The glade in front of the Lodge is quite big, and, when a kill starts, it is a grand sight to watch Hyaena racing from various directions and converging on the place. One is always impressed

by their speed.

Like Wolves, Hyaena test prospective prey until the opportunity arises for a kill, and many many such animals are tested. Apart from discovering which are the weakest, physically and morally, it probably serves as a means whereby they live in harmony. In dense cover, where meetings are frequent, they must learn to co-exist.

Many Buffalo calves are taken, usually by seperating them from the mother, but sometimes this is done by chasing. They are the slowest in the herd, and in spite of bunching and keeping to the centre, eventually they will drop behind. Buffalo cows often calve alone in dense cover, especially where predation by man is severe. When herds are big however, and protection by sheer weight of numbers is greater, then they calve within the herd. Buffalo which refuse to run but stand their ground, particularly when they can get their backs against a rock or bush, or when they can stand in a pool, are usually left alone after a bried circling.

Two objectives must be uppermost in the mind of the Hyaena; they try hard to get the herd or individual to panic and run by making short rushes, or they tease frontally in the hope that eventually the provoked one will chase its tormentor. Either way the attack will then come from the rear. Although these slow-killing methods are criticized by the uninformed as being cruel, it must be remembered that when small animals prey upon large it is the only practical way, and that shock, induced by fear, excitement and noise probably eliminates pain. I have watched kills lasting for hours and certainly could detect no violent reaction such as one would expect to result from pain, even when whole mouthfulls of flesh have been torn away. The anaesthetic power of shock is Natures' answer in the wild and only man confounds it.

In all these years we have only observed two Hyaenas trailing broken legs. Both were watched for a few weeks and then they disappeared. In times of shortage such animals would not be able to feed on a kill and malnutrition would finally eliminate them. Attacking from the rear is not cowardice but self-preservation. It should be mentioned here that on the plains the groin appears to be the favourite point of attack but in dense cover this is not always possible. Frequently the tail is bitten off, or the hocks nipped in the hope of slowing them down, and then attack is from the anus downwards.

Finding carrion in forest areas is by no means easy . . . there are no vultures to watch circling and little or no wind

for scenting. Over the years two adult Buffalo have died of natural causes near the Lodge and in both cases the animal lay for hours before discovery. Sick or old animals usually go into dense cover in a valley bottom to die. Ants quickly take over such a body as do maggots and it could well be that many are found too late by Hyaenas. When searching for carrion Hyaenas comb the forest in twos or threes, thus covering a much greater area. They probably find the young of antelopes this way, and no doubt chicks and eggs of ground-nesting birds. In forest areas I do not doubt that Hyaenas find hunting the living far more profitable than hunting the dead.

Hyaenas are superb opportunists. Everything they see, they seem to eye as edible or inedible, and this accounts for the stories of boots etc being taken out of tents at night. At my Lodge young Elephants often walk beneath the building to reach the sacks of salt stored there. Other material of course is there as well, and one night they managed to pull out, kick out, or otherwise move an iron septic tank lid, and it lay finally on the grass a few metres away. It was amusing next night to observe how every passing Hyaena tested its teeth upon the surface.

During the rains once, when Moths were exceedingly plentiful and creating a banquet for all, a small flock of Harlequin Quail, Coturnix delegorguei, had gorged on them and crouched on the grass by the wall. Hyaenas also ate these Moths and eventually a Hyaena sauntered by some Quail. All the little birds rose in time, except a greedy one which had eaten too much. it was caught in mid-air, held in the mouth a few moments to enjoy the feeling of capture, and then gulped down, feathers and all.

When glutted, Hyaenas appear to have three ambitions; sleeping, playing and testing any other animals they can see. We watch sleeping Hyaena most nights of the week. They simply lie down on the grass in the open with head on paws for periods of up to a half hour. They are not curled up like a Fox, but stretched out straight. They cat-nap so lightly that the moment any other animal appears they are instantly wide awake and on their feet. Chasing each other on moonlit nights is a common occurance, and they will play thus for hours, sometimes using a stick or clump of dead grass to add to the fun. The parabolic glitter of their eyes as they bound along is visible for a long way. Teasing appears to be not only a well-enjoyed game but another means of creating familiarity with potential future prey. A group of Hyeana will dance for half an hour around a hugh bull Rhino, jumping back smartly every time he snorts. We have even watched them mob a pair of Crowned Cranes Balearica regulorum,

in a clump of rushes far out in the pool. The Hyaenas plunged chest-deep into the water and formed a circle round them, and then returned quite happy when the birds flew noisily away.

Young Hyaenas are probably often short of minerals or salts, even though we have never seen them licking the saltlick. Possibly they may be short of bacteria to break down their undigested food. This could explain why they will sometimes creep up to an old Buffalo bull lying chewing the cud and lick round the anus. The ultimate in such behaviour was when two youngsters, probably from the same litter, sneaked up behind a hugh bull Rhino when he was engrossed on the saltlick. Crouching side by side they licked away under his tail and he not only tolerated the action but straddled his legs to make it easier to them to reach. Finally his penis dropped and one of them started licking that. And it was at that stage that he turned around and chased them both away. It could well be this shortage which causes young Hyaena to eat the Moths lying exhausted on the grass, as these were not touched by the adults.

People often ask me the question, 'What kills Hyaenas?'. Like all predators they are subject to disease and sickness and we have certainly seen them in a terribly emmaciated state. This however does not appear to be as great as with Hunting Dogs and the Hyaena litters are quite small, often no more than two. On the plains they are killed occasionally by Lions and Leopards. Males from a strange pack will certainly kill any youngsters of another pack they can catch and packs fight a great deal, often to the death, when kills are made in disputed territory. On the Aberdares, where nights are cold, rain is heavy and mists common I think arthritis claims quite a number long before they are very old.

In my next article on the Spotted Hyaena I will describe in detail some of the kills actually witnessed, for they throw considerable light on the cloak-and-dagger battles which take place nightly on this huge mountain.

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NOTES FROM TANZANIA

On 21st November 1976 we saw a female Lion, Panthera leo from the Ndutu Pride in Tarangire National Park catch an adult male Warthog, Phacochoerus aethiopicus as it was drinking from the Tarangire River. The Warthog was killed in the River which

had about 5cm of water flowing at that point. The rest of the pride soon joined the female and some 10 Lions were tearing at the carcass. Inevitably small pieces of meat were dropped and these were carried down by the current. Soon after the Lions started to feed a Hammerkop, Scopus umbretta appeared on the scene. He proceeded to wade around downstream of the carcass and collect the fallen pieces of meat. He also once caught what appeared to be a rather large white roundworm. After a few minutes the Hammerkop was joined by a Jacana, Actophilornis africana who also proceeded to join in the feast provided by the Lions. Several hours later the Hammerkop was seen sleeping near the River with a very heavy crop.

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Over the past two years I have seen several animals either albanistic forms or proper albinos where eye colour could not be determined.

South West of Ndutu, near Makau village in mid 1974 a pure white yearling female Waterbuck, Kobus sp., was seen on several occasions but in January 1976 I found her two to three month old remains; she was probably killed by Lion, Panthera leo. Just West of Ndutu in late April 1976 I saw a pure white Wildebeest calf, Connochaetes taurinus about four months old. This, of all the white animals I have seen, was the only one not completely accepted as a normal-coloured animal. Its mother kept to the edge of a fairly large herd, but often other Wildebeest, particularly males, would approach closely and look at it.

In late May 1976 a three-quarter grown white Thomson's Gazelle, Gazella thomsoni was seen just North of Ndutu. From early 1974 until I left Ndutu in June 1976, a Superb Starling, Spreo superbus with several white feathers in each wing and some on its head was seen in the vicinity of Ndutu Lodge.

From soon after my arrival in Tarangire, I have seen an Ashy Starling, Cosmopsarus unicolor with white central tail-feathers around the Lodge. About the middle of September 1976 I saw what appeared to be a white Buffalo, Syncerus caffer calf between Tarangire Lodge and the Tarangire National Park gate. It was part of a herd of at least 700 and it was impossible to get a good look at it. In the first week of October 1976 I saw a D'Arnaud's Barbet, Trachyphonus darnaudii with nearly pure white on wings, back and tail, while the red-orange under tail coverts etc were as usual.

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NOTE ON WILD DOG LYCAON PICTUS SIGHTING

It is generally assumed that the sight of Wild Dogs, Lycaon pictus, more than the sight of any other predator, will cause panic among wild ungulates. Moreover, Wild Dogs are usually found on open plains where their particular kind of hunting technique, that of pursuing their prey over long distances, can be used to maximum advantage. The following observation may therefore be of interest.

During the last week of August 1976, in a clearing in the rain-forest covering the Southeastern Loita Hills, Kenya, we noticed a pack of Wild Dogs, five adults accompanied by eight half-grown youngsters. A family group of Zebra, Equus burchelli with two young foals passed by the youngsters at less than 50m, paying no attention to the Dogs at all. The young Dogs became alert, observed the passing Zebra, but gave no chase. The adults were nearby, but we could not see whether they too, had noticed the Zebra. The unconcern of the Zebra, even assuming that they saw only the young Dogs, was surprising, so was the fact that the Dogs were within the rain-forest.

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NOTE ON THE EWASO NGIRO SWAMP

The Ewaso Ngiro Swamp near Alangurua, lies just to the South of Lake Magadi (579m) and just North of Shomboli (1563.5m) in Kenya and Lake Natron (609m) in Tanzania. It lies roughly 2°5'S 36°7'E, and is formed by the Ewaso Ngiro River which eventually seeps into Lake Natron.

The swamp was first mentioned by the Late Mrs I. Preston as the place where her friends had seen a Shoebill or Whale-headed Stork, Balaeniceps rex (EANHS Bulletin, November/December 1976 p. 131-132). We have hunted for this swamp and D.K. Richards eventually found the tracks after an aerial search of the area and visited it on 13th December 1976. Together we visited the swamp on 24th January 1977, and later John Miskell and his party reached there on the same day.

Botanically it was most interesting, being of a vast area,

hundreds, possibly thousands of hectares of Reedmace, Typha sp. with leaves and inflorescences up to 3m high amongst which were mats of Nile Cabbage or Water Lettuce, Pistia stratiotes mixed with Potamogeton sp. In the clear shallow water was the water fern Marsellia sp. which also survives on dry land around the edge, forming mats amongst patches of Water Lily pads, Nymphia sp. The Water Lily flowers were very small and hardly blue with the leaves an odd shape, more like an 'antelope-spoor'. A number of submerged herbs were also noted. Part of the swamp had been recently burned while the shore plants had been grazed almost to ground level by cattle, stock and game.

No fish were seen although basket-type fish traps of the Luo type were found and there is a small Luo fishing settlement nearby. Several species of fish are known from the Ewaso Ngiro River, such as Clarias sp. A feature of the shore were the innumerable large and small dragonflies, the scarlet Crocothemis, blue Orthetrum, Trithemis and large Anax, Rhyothemis and Trapezostigma with colourful hindwings, and dainty Coenagriidae Damsel Flies.

The following mammals were seen during the day and most went to the swamp to drink. Olive Baboons, Papio anubis, several groups. Warthog, Phacochoerus aethiopicus, one family with four very small piglets. Grant's Gazelle, Gazella granti. Impala, Aepyceras melampus, the Hare, Lepus capensis and the Yellow-winged Bat, Lavia frons in the Acacias.

However, birds were the main feature, the most interesting being:
Squacco, Ardeola ralloides very numerous and often in a party of a dozen or more.
Saddlebill Stork, Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis, a single bird.
Marabou, Leptoptilus crumeniferus. numerous, as were the carcasses of cattle.
Yellow-billed Stork, Ibis ibis, a few.
Sacred Ibis, Threskiornis aethiopicus, numerous, here and there.
Glossy Ibis, Plegadis falcinellus, a few
African Spoonbill, Platalea alba, a few
White-faced Tree Duck, Dendrocygna viduata, a pack
Egyptian Goose, Alopochen aegyptiaca, a few pairs
Knob-bill, Sarkidiornis melanota, party, one male with a large knob
Wigeon, Anas penelope, several, in off plumage
Red-billed Duck, Anas erythrorhynchus, many
Hottentot Teal, Anas hottentota, several
Egyptian Vulture, Neophron perchopterus, most in white adult plumage
Marsh Harrier, Circus aeruginosus, over swamp. One seen to make a 'tall swoop'.

Gabar Goshawk, Melierax gabar, in Aeacias by swamp edge
Booted Eagle, Hieraaetus pennatus, a singleton
Crowned Crane, Balearica regulorum, in pairs
Lily-trotter (Jacana), Actophilornis africana in floeks, often 30 and more birds !
Blaeksmith Plover, Vanellus armatus, pairs
Spotted Redshank, Tringa erythropus, a fine singleton in good plumage
All the commoner, Palaearctic, Magadi Waders were in great numbers and
Water Dikkop, Buhrinus vermieulatus, in pairs
Pratincole, Glareola pratincola, a party of 20 eame to drink
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, Merops superciliosus persicus, numbers
White-throated Bee-eater, Merops albicollis, numbers with the Blue-cheeked
Afriean Sandmartin, Riparia paludicola, thousands over the Typha either resting on or feeding in great flocks, most of the time low, just over the grass or swamp
Wood Sandpiper, Tringa glareola

For details of the route to the Ewaso Ngiro Swamp, please contact the Birdroom, the National Museum, Nairobi.

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A further short note on the Ewaso Ngiro Swamp came from John Miskell, mentioned above. He reports eatching 2 male Tiger beetles, Myriochile melancholica Fab. at the Swamp. These are the first speeimens in the National Museum, Nairobi collection from Southern Kenya. Ed.

HINTS ON BEETLE COLLECTING

Beetles belong to the insect order Coleoptera (meaning sheath-winged) and the order is considered to eontain the second largest number of species among the animal orders. The possibility of collecting species new to scienee or extending the range of known species by several hundred kilometres is enormous.

There are four basic methods for collecting Beetles. The first is the use of a net made from strong material which will not tear when sweeping it through bushes and trees. This method is very productive after the rains when the flowers are out, as these may contain many Beetles. The second method is very simple, just turn over stones, look on the ground and under dead bark of trees and you will find them. The dung of all animals contains Beetles, normally of the family Scarabaeidae, and one

pile of dung may contain many species at different stages. When using this second method simply pick up any Beetles you see, but do take great care as some of the large Tiger Beetles can bite, and the Nairobi Eye, Paederus crebrepunctatus is a Beetle ! When is doubt, use forceps. The third collecting technique is equally easy - either watch your security light for Beetles which are attracted to it, or, when on safari, a gas or paraffin light will attract any insects in the area. The fourth basic collecting method is to pour water onto the sand of a dry river bank or lake edge; any Beetles which are underground will come to the surface.

Beetles can be killed in a chloroform killing jar. This is a quick method and one of the safest to use. A cyanide jar is not advisable as it is very harmfull to humans ! Smaller species can be put in a tube with a little soft tissue in the bottom, and a few drops on chloroform dripped on top. Ethyl acetate or carbon tetarchloride can also be used to kill your specimens, but these are slow-acting and make the specimens brittle. Do ensure that the Beetles are well and truely dead before you pin them through the right wing case; some of the large species can be quickly knocked unconscious by the killing agent but not killed, so it is advisable to leave them in the killing jar for an hour or more. Entomological pins can be obtained in Nairobi and size 5 (Continental) or 0 (British) should be used for the large Beetles while size 3 (Continental) or 7 (British) are suitable for the smaller species. All Continental pins are the same length but vary in width, while the British ones vary both in length and width. Very small Beetles should be mounted on a card with a little gum arabic or other water-soluable glue, and the card elevated on a pin. It is very important that the smallest possible amount of glue be used or it will stick up the legs and antennae and make the specimens difficult to study.

The most important part is labelling your collection for one which does not have data labels is useless for scientific purposes. This can be done either when you collect or as the specimens are pinned. Preferably use a note book in the field and take notes as the specimens are collected. This data is then transferred to the labels under the specimen. The information needed on the data label is: Place, Country, Altitude (state if given in feet or metres), Date (day, month, year), Field notes (e.g. feeding on Aloe graminicola) and the name of the collector.

Unfortunately, no general work exists on the Beetles of Eastern Africa, but the National Museum, Nairobi has an extensive collection and are always willing to help in identifying

collections. Specimens which are donated to the Museum are always most welcome.

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OBSERVATIONS ON THE FISHING OWL, *SCOTOPELIA PELI* ON THE TANA RIVER, KENYA

Whilst on the Tana River Expedition 1976, I was lucky enough to observe the Fishing Owl on several occasions. This bird is said to be uncommon, but is widespread in Africa. The Owl was seen on seven occasions on the Tana River, a figure which at first sight does not seem very much. However, when compared to the number of times other Owls were seen, these seven occasions take on a new significance. The Scops Owl, *Otus scops*, though frequently heard was never seen, even though night-time searches were carried out. The White-faced Scops Owl, *Otus leucotis*, was recorded only once when one flew into a mist-net at dusk. The African Wood Owl, *Ciccaba woodfordii*, was recorded nine times during the day in fairly thick vegetation. These records would seem to indicate that the Fishing Owl is not rare on the Tana River.

Of the seven sightings of the Fishing Owl, two were at night. One was near Wema, above Garsen, flying down the River whilst members of the expedition were conducting a night search for Crocodile, *Crocodylus niloticus*. The other was observed fishing from a dead tree stump in the middle of the river near our camp at Kipende at about 3 a.m. A dead Elephant, *Loxodonta africana* had floated downstream and lodged on the same sand-bank as the tree. The maggots proved an attraction to birds during the day and also to Catfish at night. Observation was facilitated by an Image Intensifier. This instrument is basically a photon accelerator which gathers all the available light from the moon and stars to which our eyes are insensitive, and transforms it into an image which we can see, projected onto a phosphorous screen forming a green, glowing picture. Using this instrument it was possible to see the Owl up to about 50m away, even though it was invisible to the unaided eye. The Owl would sit immobile for long periods, resembling the tree stump on which it sat, from time to time turning round. On three occasions the Owl dropped to the water 2 - 3.5 m away, twice returning to its pearch with a Catfish c. 20cms long. A second catching technique was recorded when an Owl flew off downstream, not returning for 10 to 25 minutes. It was presumed that during this time it flew along the River. On one

of these occasions it returned to the perch with a Catfish over 30cm long, a large splash being heard beforehand. These measurements were arrived at by comparison with the tree stump the Owl was sitting on, which it was possible to measure by daylight, and also by estimation as a fraction of the Owl's length.

The fish were eaten on the tree stump, the bird raising the fish about half-way to its bill in one claw and tearing off pieces which it swallowed. The bulk of the two smaller fish were swallowed whole but the head was never eaten. This would be difficult due to the long spines present on the pectoral and dorsal fins. These are very sharp and can be locked in position, and small barbules make them a formidable means of defence. It is probable that Catfish constitute the bulk of the Fishing Owl's diet on the Tana River. It is known that many species spend the day in deep pools, but are present on the surface at night, for example the Clarias sp. which comes in to very shallow water at night.

The Fishing Owl was encountered by day in the Mangroves, Rhizophora sp. at the mouth of the Tana, where two were seen. Here they were relatively large numbers of fish-eating birds, including Fish Eagles, Haliaeetus vocifer, Osprey Pandion haliaetus, Long-tailed Cormorant, Phalacrocorax africanus, African Darters, Anhinga rufa and various Herons. Regarding the dense nature of the Mangroves, a relatively large number of Fishing Owls can be expected in this particular habitat. A single Owl was encountered overlooking the River near Mulango, above Garissa, and another just below Bura. Whilst in camp at Hewani, above Garsen, a Fishing Owl roosted during one day in a large Mango tree, Mangifera indica, overlooking the camp where it was photographed before it flew away at 6.15 p.m. The positions of those Owls seen during the day indicate that it, unlike most others, sits in a fairly open position during the day. The two Owls seen at Hewani and at Wema, although about 16km apart, again indicate that the Fishing Owl in not uncommon on the Tana River. At no time during the expedition were any unusual sounds heard at night and none of the various calls ascribed to this species were heard. These are described by Leslie Brown, Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club, 1976, 96(2).

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FURTHER RECORDS OF THE CORN CRAKE FROM DAR-ES-SALAAM

Relatively few records of the Corn Crake, Crex crex, are available for Kenya and Tanzania, (Backhurst, Britton and Mann, 1973, Journal of the East Africa Natural History Society and National Museum No 140: 11-12) and there appears to be only one record from coastal East Africa, a single specimen collected at Dar-es-Salaam on 29th April 1973 (Howell, 1973, EANHS Bulletin: 95-96).

Two further specimens, both males in breeding plumage and both with heavy deposits of fat, have since been collected on the University of Dar-es-Salaam main campus. The first bird was captured on 21st April 1976 by a grounds worker in an area of grassland between the athletic grounds and the sewage ponds. This bird weighed 183g, had a wing length of 135mm, and each testis measured 5 x 4mm. The second bird, kindly donated to the Department of Zoology by Dr W.B. Rudman, was killed by a domestic cat on 30th April 1976. It weighed 180g, had a wing length of 135mm, and each testis measured 2 x 1mm. Both birds were skinned by C.A. Msuya; the first was prepared as a mounted museum specimen (catalogued as UDSM-B-90) the second as a study skin (UDSM- B- 91).

These additional specimens of the Corn Crake from Dar-es-Salaam would seem to indicate that the species may be more common than previously recognized and support the suggestion made earlier (op. cit.) that, in addition to using a route through the highlands of Tanzania and Kenya, the species also regularly migrates North along the East African coast in late April.

K.M. Howell,
Dept. of Zoology,
P.O. Box 35064,
DAR-ES-SALAAM, Tanzania

CHECKLISTS OF BIRDS IN NAIROBI NATIONAL PARK

Two checklists are commonly available, that of Williams in the Field Guide to the National Parks of East Africa, and that in the official guide by the National Parks of Kenya. The former (A) contains about 390 species and the latter (B) 320. Although (B) is incomplete in many respects it nevertheless contains 37 species not listed in (A) so that the combined checklist would be about 427 species.

Following seven years of regular birdwatching in the Park,

I can add the following eight species which do not occur on either of these lists.

African Darter	Anhinga rufa	Narogomon dam
Little Bittern	Ixobrychus minutus	Hippo Pools
Hildebrandt's Francolin	Francolinus hildebrandti	Mokoyeti and Sosian Gorges
Brown-backed Woodpecker	Picoides obsoletus	Forest
Cliff Chat	Myrmecocichla cinnamomeiventris	Mbagathi Gorge Cliffs
Siffling Cisticola	Cisticola brachyptera	Open areas in Forest valleys
Silverbill	Lonchura malabarica	Near No 9
Thick-billed Seed-eater	Serinus burtoni	Forest

My personal checklist for the Park now stands at about 295 species.

Reynolds (EANHS Bulletin 1973:112) lists nine species that he had seen which were not on list (A). Of these the following two are additional to the aforementioned three lists:

Crested Francolin	Francolinus sephaena
Kaffir Rail	Rallus caerulescens

To these can be added :

Sanderling	Calidris alba (Bowles, V.V. EANHS Bulletin 1974:120)
Bittern	Botaurus stellaris (Norris, C.E., EANHS Bulletin 1974:163)

giving a grand total of 439 species.

I feel that many more species could be added to this list particularly from the 'difficult' groups such as Birds of Prey, Cisticolas, Larks and Pipits. I would be interested to collect from members any further records so that a reasonably complete checklist for our most accessible National Park can be prepared.

N.J. Skinner,
P.O. Box 30197, NAIROBI

A LARGE HIRUNDINE ROOST IN UASIN GISHU

During the period August to October 1976 birds were caught and ringed at a massive Hirundine roost close to Eldoret, Kenya. The roost, which apparently has been in existence for several years, was very accessible being in a relatively small reed bed at the shallow end of a cattle dam. This year the birds were first seen in late July and the numbers rapidly increased to a maximum in September when estimates of upto 10^6 birds were

present. The roost dispersed quite rapidly in early October and by November only a few hundred birds were present.

The roost mainly consisted of European Swallows, Hirundo rustica, of which 80% were juvenile birds. Small numbers of Sand Martins, Riparia riparia and Banded Sand Martins, Riparia cincta were also caught.

In all a total of 2200 Swallows were caught and as an indication of the size of the roost we only controlled five of our own birds and these were only caught when the roost was decreasing in size. No other birds were controlled but two juveniles were found with coloured wool tied to each leg, presumably put there when the birds were nestlings in an attempt to identify them.

J.R. Best,
P.O. Box 450, ELDORET,
Kenya.

NEW YEAR WEEK-END AT MICHIMUKURU ESTATE

This New Year was celebrated in fine style. Mr and Mrs P. Scott invited us to camp on Michmurkuru Estate in the Nyambeni Hills, Kenya, and besides providing a commodious camping site, invited us to a barbecue in their delightful garden, where meat was roasted and buns toasted and everyone had a splendid time. While the oldest and youngest members of the party crept or were carried away to bed, the rest stayed to see the New Year in and a bit further, though this did not deter them from getting up in good time in the morning, going to see the tea factory, and sampling some lovely walks afforded by the estate with its lines and patches of forest. A good deal of tree planting is undertaken on the estate and it was good to see Vitex keniensis being planted besides the more popular and quick-growing exotics.

Peter and Hazel Britton set up nets and gave us the opportunity of seeing birds that we seldom or never see in any other way. To sit by the ringing table always seems to me to be a form of cheating. The proper way to see birds is to watch them hopping about. The object of ringing is to study birds' movements, not to satisfy the curiosity of the lazy or decrepit. But how often do we see the Brown-chested Alethe Alethe poliocephala or the Abyssinian Hill-babbler, Alcippe abyssinica hopping about? The Alethe, though in a description its colours might sound dull, is a singularly beautiful bird in the hand or in the field, the large eye and conspicuous eye-stripe recalling the Robin-Chats, Cossypha spp. to which it is closely related.

I myself had only seen it once before, at Lutembe near Kampala, Uganda on 10th February 1963. There was a pair of which we saw one very well. We guessed it was a Thrush, and with this start were able to key it out. The identification was made by my companion Pam Arman, one of the keenest of our Uganda members in those days.

As for the Abyssinian Hill-Babbler, several of us saw it from the roof of Mountain Lodge, when the Soeiety held a field meeting there in June 1973, and on another oceasion others of us thought we heard the song. This was near Ragati Forest Station in February 1971. Jean Hayes recorded the song and played it baek, and the bird answered from the depth of the forest, but would not come out or show itself.

Many thanks are due to Mr and Mrs Scott for this delightful week-end and memorable New Year celebration. They even sent us off with gifts of delicious tea, very different from what I at least usually buy in the shops.

'Corvinella'

THE NEST RECORD SCHEME

There has been an encouraging increase in participation in the Nest Record Scheme during 1976. There is no substitute for personal contact in convincing members of the worthiness of their contributions so that the distance of our home from Nairobi has always been a disadvantage in recruiting new faces. G.R. Cunningham-van Someren's tireless efforts in promoting the Scheme in Nairobi are much appreciated. Many members are now obtaining their eards directly from him at the National Museum, and a further supply is available at the Society's office at the Museum. This saves on postage, but I always aeknowledge the receipt of eards and am always pleased to correspond with any contributor.

An analysis of the breeding seasons of East African birds by Dr Leslie Brown and my husband Peter is now virtually complete and it will be published in four parts in our Journal. It will form an invaluable baseline, enabling future data to be evaluated meaningfully, and should not be viewed as 'the end of the road' in our study of breeding seasons. We still want records of the commonest species, however scant the data. An understanding of breeding seasons is only one aim of the Scheme. A large body of data will prove useful in the future for clutch-size, nest-site and other studies.

I have received fewer requests for data during 1976 than in

some previous years but I was able to supply data on the Ostrich Struthio camelus to L.M. Hurxthal, the Yellow-backed Weaver, Ploceus melanocephalus and the Golden-backed Weaver, P. jacksoni to Dr J. Parsons, the Stripe-breasted Sparrow-Weaver, Plocepasser mahali to Dr N.E. Collias, on Mackinnon's Shrike, Lanius mackinnoni to W.R.J. Dean and breeding records from Tsavo East National Park to P.C. Lack.

Please send any 1976 cards to me directly as soon as possible. Finding nests is fun ! Filling in cards is a chore, but a worthwhile one. I hope that 1977 will prove to be still more successful.

Mrs Hazel A. Britton
Organiser, EANHS Nest
Record Scheme,
Shimo-la-tewa School,
P.O. Box 90163,
MOMBASA, Kenya.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I refer to the note published in the EANHS Bulletin for January/February 1977 p.8 - 9 recording Guppies in the Athi River.

I first found Guppies in the Athi River catchment area in 1972 - in the Nairobi River between Kariobangi and Nairobi Falls. In 1973 I also observed Guppies in the Ruaraka River (adjacent to Kenya Breweries) and in the Athi River at Fourteen Falls.

B.S. Meadows,
P.O. Box 30521, NAIROBI.

Dear Sir,

I refer to Mr K. Campbell's note in the January/February Bulletin on finding Guppies in the Athi River. Two species of mosquito larvae-eating fish, known then as Lebistes reticularis and Gambusia affinis holbrooki were introduced to Kenya around 1930 - 1935 by the then Senoir Entomologist of the Medical Research Laboratory, Mr C.B. Symes, for the expressed purpose of controlling mosquito larvae populations in wells on the Island of Mombasa. Two tanks were built at the laboratory and the public were invited to apply for fish for ponds and the

like. In 1936 the writer commenced an extensive campaign in Nairobi and District to introduce these fish to all semi and permanent water such as the many streams flowing through Nairobi; to quarries and burrow-pits, to the many swamps in the city area which existed at that time. Later when it became necessary to intensify mosquite control on account of the possibility of Yellow Fever, all sorts of domestic and factory water supply tanks were stocked to control the Aedes Mosquito. Throughout 1939 to 1945, Numbers 1 and 11, Mobile Malaria Units of the East African Army Medical Corps stocked all standing water and streams around the very many army camps within Kenya and even took fish to Ethiopia for the Abyssinian Campaign. Thus either of these two species of fish may be found anywhere in Kenya from Kisumu to the Coast, the NFD to the Tanzania border. They failed in Lake Nakuru as the water was too saline but did survive in Naivasha. Most of the dams on the Coffee and Sisal Estates were also stocked.

G.R. Cunningham-van Someren
(one time Health Dept. Nairobi
and E.A.A.M.C.)
P.O. Box 40658, NAIROBI.

Dear Sir,

As an ordinary, rank-and-file birdwatcher, might I suggest that you persuade some member of the Ornithological Sub-Committee to write a note in the Bulletin (not their specialist publication though of course there too if they wish), on the recent changes in nomenclature ? It is with great pleasure and relief that I read in the Newsletter of the Dept. of Ornithology -'There have been several additions to the bird list for East Africa and so many changes in nomenclature since the first edition of Mackworth-Praed and Grant (1955) that those who have these volumes will find them very out of date. A revised checklist for the non-passerines has now been prepared, stencils cut and should be available shortly for anybody wishing to bring their volumes up-to-date' (Newsletter No 9, p.1). This is an immensely helpful piece of work to have undertaken, and I only hope that they will continue it by preparing immediately a similar list for the Passerines.

At present a great deal of confusion exists. The new nomenclature is not generally available though its use is compulsory in the Bulletin, and if anyone sends in a note using the old names, you, Sir, will make the alterations, so that the poor author no longer knows what he is talking about. Graeme and Daphne Backhurst's list was not widely distributed, and the

Library copy has to be kept in protective custody. I have actually heard fellow members telling each other that it is better to rely on English names rather than the scientific ones, as they are less liable to change, and this is very disappointing after many years of trying to persuade them to use the scientific names at least for reference work.

Of course we are in no position to question the wisdom or desirability of these changes. The mere publication of a list would do much to restore confidence, and an explanatory note would enable us to bear the present inconveniences with more patience. The questions that particularly need to be answered seem to be the following :

1. Is the new nomenclature internationally recognised, or only for local use?
2. Is it now fairly stable?
3. Will the new Group Order (e.g. in the Passerines, Alaudidae to Zosteropidae instead of Alaudidae to Emberizidae) be used in future books (a) on African birds (b) on birds in other parts of the world ?
4. Whose work do these changes help, and in what way ?

Priscilla M. Allen,
P.O. Box 14166, NAIROBI.

RECORD SECTION

A New Rodent Species to Nairobi Museum

In November 1976 while trapping small mammals in Kakamega area, Kenya, an interesting species of rodent, Colomys goslingi was caught. Two specimens were obtained, both at night. One was along a small stream at Mukumu Mission 0° 17'S 34° 45.5'E and the other below Kakamega Forest Station along the Lugusida River 0° 15.5'S 34° 52.5'E. Both water courses had thick vegetation cover. The specimen from Luguside River was caught in a big cage trap which was partially submerged in water which was meant to trap Otters. While it was in the water it swam well; water did not wet its fur; and on taking the cage out of the water it climbed the sides of the cage with agility. The rodent is probably a good swimmer and climber.

The species has been recorded from Cameroons, Congo, Zaire, Angola, Upper Nile in the Sudan and the Aberdares in Kenya.

I. Aggundey,
Curator of Mammals,
P.O. Box 40658, NAIROBI.

BOOK REVIEW

Wild Cats of the World by C.A.W. Guggisberg, New York, Taplinger Publishing Co. 1975

This fine book has been added to the Library, a gift from the author. The Cats, though differing widely among themselves, form a well-defined group whose grace and beauty combined with ferocity and independence of character, have fascinated mankind from early times. This is a reference book rather than a book to read through, but the most readable and probably to most of us the most interesting parts are those where the author is able to write from his own rich and deep experience. All the East African species are illustrated by his own photographs. But he is a man of great erudition as well as long experience in the field. Photographs and descriptions are well documented and there is an extensive bibliography.

'Corvinella'

WANTED KNOWN

The following books are wanted :
Trees and Shrubs of Kenya Colony 1936 by E. Battiscombe
Wildflowers of Nairobi National Park 1962 by S. Heriz-Smith

Please contact Denise Costich, P.O. Box 526, MACHAKOS, Kenya if you wish to sell or give away the above publications.

The Paintings of Norman Lighton

Members who are interested in obtaining a copy of one of the editions of Norman Lighton's paintings can obtain information by writing to 'The Paintings of Norman Lighton', P.O. Box 41815, NAIROBI.

Bird Checklist for Serengeti National Park

I have been working on a checklist of the birds of Serengeti National Park, Tanzania, which is now ready for printing. To make sure that no information is missing, members are requested to add their information to the list. Any records and breeding records are of interest, even for common species. Every observation put on the list will show the name of the observer and all letters will be acknowledged. I hope a lot of members will write to me ! Dieter Schmidl, P.O. Box 33, NAKURU, Kenya.

SOCIETY NOTES

Ornithological Publication

The Ornithological Sub-Committee of the Society agreed unanimously on the need for a quarterly East African ornithological publication, to be produced under the auspices of the Society. It was agreed that this publication, together with an Annual Bird Report should be funded by a seperate subscription and be available to Society members on payment of Shs. 50.00 annually, in addition to the Society's subscription. These proposals were accepted by the Executive Committee at its meeting in December 1976.

At a further meeting in January it was decided that the new publication be called 'Scopus' and that production of the first 1977 quarterly issue should go ahead. This should be ready for distribution by the Society's Annual General Meeting in March.

Cheques should be made payable to'D.A. Turner Scopus Account' and NOT to the Society. The Secretary/Treasurer is Mr D.A. Turner, P.O. Box 48019, NAIROBI. All contributions for 'Scopus' should be sent to Dr D.J. Pearson, Dept. of Biochemistry, P.O. Box 30197, NAIROBI.

Praed and Grant for Sale

A member is selling both volumes of Mackworth Praed and Grant's 'Birds of Eastern and North Eastern Africa'. Cost Shs. 1700.00. To give up-country members a chance, please send in your request to The Treasurer, P.O. Box 44486, NAIROBI to reach her by 18th March. Envelopes should be clearly marked 'P &G' in the top left hand corner. The first letter opened on that date will get the books.

'Upland Kenya Wild Flowers'

The Society has ordered 50 copies of this excellent book which is said to be on the high seas. They have not yet arrived, and the publishers fear they may be lost. However, members wishing to obtain a copy should place their orders with The Treasurer P.O. Box 44486, NAIROBI. Those who do so will be notified if and when the books arrive, so place your orders now.

New Members

The Secretary/Treasurer would like to thank all those who have helped us in our membership drive by spreading the word to their friends. To date we have had 60 new members, so please keep up the good work.

'Medicinal Plants of East Africa'

We have sold out, but more copies of this valuable book are on order. Please contact the Treasurer in the Society's office in the National Museum. Price Shs. 55.00 to members

'Nakuru' Book

Further supplies of this book have arrived, and again they can be bought in the office. Postal orders are accepted, but please add Shs. 6.00 for packing and postage. Cost Shs. 50.00 to members.

Car Stickers

New members are reminded that the Society has car stickers for sale at only Shs. 2.00 each. Available in the Office. As one members said the other day, if you do not want to stick them on your car you can use them as drinks mats !

Journal Reprints

We have some very valuable and usefull reprints in the Office. Some of them are in very short supply, so do not miss the chance.

NEW MEMBERS

Local Full Members

Mr A.F. Barbet, P.O. Box 30709, NAIROBI
Miss Valerie Barran, P.O. Box 30465, NAIROBI
Mrs E.R.G. Barrott, P.O. Box 40751, NAIROBI
Mr and Mrs F.J. Bentley, P.O. Box 45713, NAIROBI
Mrs G.G. Bisley, P.O. Box 20723, NAIROBI
Mr Svend Borrit, c/o P.O. Box 30201, NAIROBI
Mrs Susan Bowls, P.O. Box 25030, NAIROBI
Mr Hugh Cowie, P.O. Box 15569, NAIROBI
Ms Joyce E.G. Duncan, P.O. Box 24922, NAIROBI
Ms Yvonne Errington, P.O. Box 30270, NAIROBI

Dr A. van Gastel, N.A.R.S., P.O. Box 450, KITALE, Kenya
Mr David J. Grantham, P.O. Box 40426, NAIROBI
C. Groenendijk, P.O. Box 41537, NAIROBI
Mr John Hall, KTTC, P.O. Box 44600, NAIROBI
Mr John Harries, Kareti Estate, P.O. Box 333, THIKA, Kenya
Ms G. Heuser, Royal Danish Embassy, P.O. Box 40412, NAIROBI
Miss M.E.C. Howard, St Julians, P.O. Box 48121, NAIROBI
Mr Thomas Jaenson, I.C.I.P.E., P.O. Box 30772, NAIROBI
Mr C.A.A. Jansen, P.O. Box 14828, NAIROBI
Miss Beryl Kendall, P.O. Box 45925, NAIROBI
Mr Alan D. Logan, P.O. Box 47209, NAIROBI
Dr Gladys J.G. Lowe, c/o Dr Edwards, P.O. Box 30521, NAIROBI
Mr David Mason, Imani School, P.O. Box 750, THIKA, Kenya
Mr F.C. Mathez, c/o UNEP, P.O. Box 30552, NAIROBI
Mr J.B. Mitcalfe, P.O. Box 47383, NAIROBI
Mr and Mrs Mollison, P.O. Box 30047, NAIROBI
Ms Shakuntala Moorjani, Department of Botany, P.O. Box 30197, NAIROBI
Mr R.D. Morgan, P.O. Box 47, GILGIL, Kenya
Mrs Peggy McGillivray, P.O. Box 30481, NAIROBI
Mr S.G. Njuguna, P.O. Box 27359, NAIROBI
Mr Murray Roberts, P.O. Box 1051, NAKURU, Kenya
Mr Wilson Wanjama Ruara, Sokoro Sawmills Ltd., P.O. Box 12, ELBURGON, Kenya
Mrs G.A. Shaw, P.O. Box 30103, NAIROBI
Miss Dianne Stanyon, P.O. Box 41721, NAIROBI
Mr Jim Taylor, P.O. Box 750, THIKA, Kenya
Mrs Barbara Thomas, P.O. Box 47098, NAIROBI
Ms Sheila Thompson, P.O. Box 42247, NAIROBI
Mr K.K. Wachiira, P.O. Box 14548, NAIROBI
Ms Diane Ward, Limuru Girls School, Private Bag, LIMURU, Kenya
Mrs F.A. Webb, Cedarvale Farm, P.O. Box 184, NANYUKI, Kenya
Mr A.A.E. Williams, P.O. Box 23, NJORO, Kenya
Mr Edgar V. Winans, P.O. Box 41081, NAIROBI
Ms Carol Ann Zito, Kaaga Girls High School, Private Bag, MERU, Kenya

Local Life Member

Dr A.A.J. Jansen, Medical Research Centre, P.O. Box 20752, NAIROBI

Change of Status - Life

Mr P.E. Beverley, Kianyaga High School, P.O. Box 1020, KIANYAGA, Kenya

Local Junior Members

Mr Charles Amuyunzu, University of Nairobi, Ngala Hall, P.O. Box 30344, NAIROBI
Mr Achoka John Daudi, c/o Kenyatta University College, P.O. Box 30553, NAIROBI
Mr Bruce E. Davis, Naitobi Study Centre, P.O. Box 30197, NAIROBI

Overseas Full Member

Ruth A. Laseski, Brown University, Dept. of Geological Sciences, P.O. Box 1846, PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island 02912, U.S.A.

SOCIETY FUNCTIONS

Sunday 13th March All-day field excursion to the Thika, Fourteen Falls and Ol Donyo Dabuk area. Leader Mr P.D. Kelly. Please meet at the Blue Posts Hotel, Thika either at 8.15 a.m. for duck and wader watching on some local dams or at 10 a.m. for visits to the Falls and Mountain area. The latter will be of general natural history interest. Please bring a picnic lunch and be prepared for some walking. A watchman will be in attendance to guard the cars during walks.

Monday, 14th March at 5.30 p.m. at the National Museum Hall, Nairobi: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING after which the film 'The Year of the Wildebeest' (50 minutes) by Alan Root will be shown by courtesy of the Wildlife Clubs of Kenya.

Monday 18th April at 5.30 p.m. at the National Museum Hall, Nairobi. Dr D. Pomeroy of the Zoology Department of Kenyatta University College will give an illustrated lecture on MARABOU STORKS.

Sunday 24th April Mr M.P. Clifton, Entomologist at the National Museum, will lead a 'Dudu-Crawl'. This will take place in Karura Forest, Nairobi. Please meet at the National Museum at 9.30 a.m. and bring a picnic lunch if you wish to stay all day.

Sunday, 8th May Dr J.J. Gaudet of the Department of Botany, University of Nairobi, will lead an excursion to study the Lakeside vegetation at Lake Naivasha. Further details later.

Monday 9th May at 5.30 p.m. At the National Museum Hall, Nairobi, Dr John Kokwaro of the Botany Department, University of Nairobi will give a lecture on MEDICINAL PLANTS.

Sunday 15th May Half day botanical excursion in the Nairobi Area. Leader Mrs Fleur Ng'weno. Please meet at the National Museum, Nairobi at 9.00 a.m.

Week-end 4th/5th June Mr S. Moss of the British Council and Mr D. Theobald of the K.I.E. will hold a course on Basic ecology, provided that sufficient members sign on. The course will take place within very easy reach of Nairobi and take two days. The cost will be Shs. 15.00 for the printed material. All equipment will be provided. Only basic ecology will be taught - no taxonomic knowledge is necessary. If you are interested, please write direct to Mr S. Moss, The British Council, P.O. Box 40751, NAIROBI for details.

Monday 13th June at 5.30 p.m. at the National Museum Hall, Nairobi. An illustrated lecture by our Chairman, Mr John Karmali on 'BIRDS THROUGH MY LENS'.

Week-end 18th/19th June The Society has been offered special terms (Shs. 110.00 per person per night) at Meru Mulika Lodge in Meru National Park. Details later.

Monday, 11th July at 5.30 p.m. at the National Museum Hall, Nairobi. Mr R.D. Haller, Agronomist at Bamburi Portland Cement Works, will give an illustrated lecture on 'REHABILITATION OF A LIMESTONE QUARRY'.

Monday 8th August at 5.30 p.m. at the National Museum Hall, Nairobi. Mr B.S. Meadows will give a lecture on 'WATER POLLUTION'.

Details of July and August field trips will be announced later.

Wednesday morning bird walks continue. Please meet at the National Museum, Nairobi at 8.45 a.m.

STOP PRESS Where have all the Sunbirds gone ?? Members seeing concentrations of Sunbirds or large patches of flowering *Aloe graminicola*, *A. kedongensis*, *Leonotis nepetifolia* or *L. mollisima* please contact the Treasurer in the Society Office.

THE EAST AFRICA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Joint Library Sub Committee (Society representatives): Mrs J. Hayes, Dr J. Kokwaro.

MEMBERSHIP

This offers you free entry to the National Museum, Nairobi; free lectures, films, slide shows or discussions every month in Nairobi; field trips and camps led by experienced guides; free use of the Joint Society-National Museum Library (postal borrowing is also possible); reciprocal arrangements with the Uganda Society's Library in the Uganda Museum, Kampala; family participation: wives and children of members may attend most Society functions; one copy of the *EANHS Bulletin* every two months; a copy of each *Journal* published during your period of membership; the Society controls the ringing of birds in East Africa and welcomes new ringers and runs an active Nest Record Scheme; activities such as plant mapping and game counting are undertaken on a group basis. Membership rates are given at the foot of this page.

JOURNAL

The Society publishes *The Journal of the East Africa Natural History Society and National Museum.* Each issue consists usually of one paper, however, sometimes two or more short papers may be combined to form one number. The aim of this method of presentation is to ensure prompt publication of scientific information; a title page is issued at the end of each year so that the year's papers may be bound together. Contributions, which should be typed in double spacing on one side of the paper, with wide margins, should be sent to the Secretary, Box 44486, Nairobi, Kenya. Authors receive twenty-five reprints of their article free, provided that these are ordered at the time the proofs are returned.

E.A.N.H.S. BULLETIN

This is a duplicated magazine issued six times a year, which exists for the rapid publication of short notes, articles, letters and reviews. Contributions, which may be written in clear handwriting or typed, should be sent to The Editor (*EANHS Bulletin*), Box 44486, Nairobi, Kenya. Line drawings will be considered if they add to the value of the article. Photographs cannot be published.

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Life	One payment: Kshs. 750/-
Institutional (schools, libraries) .	annual payment: Kshs. 50/-
Full	annual payment: Kshs. 50/-
Junior (full-time student, no *Journal* supplied) . . .	annual payment: Kshs. 10/-

Subscriptions are due 1st January. From 1st July you may join for Kshs. 35/- and receive publications from that date. Application forms for membership are obtainable from the Secretary, Box 44486, Nairobi.

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